

C l a i m s

We claim:

1. An airbag module for a motor vehicle for mounting behind an instrument panel and deployment through an opening flap in the instrument panel comprising:
 - a module casing,
 - a disk-shaped gas generator mounted within the module casing having discharge openings located on the perimeter of the gas generator,
 - a deflector that at least partially surrounds the gas-discharge openings,
 - an airbag that is folded into the module casing, the disk-shaped gas generator being arranged on-edge at an angle to the plane of the instrument panel, with the folded airbag arranged at least partially between the narrow side of the gas generator and the opening flap.
2. An airbag module according to Claim 1 wherein the deflector surrounds the disk-shaped gas generator in the peripheral area opposite the opening flap in order to guide the gas flow escaping from the gas-discharge openings arranged in this area into the airbag between the gas generator and the opening flap.
3. An airbag module according to Claim 1 wherein the disk-shaped generator, whose plane is defined by the gas-discharge openings, is aligned substantially normal to the surface of the opening flap.

4. An airbag module according to Claim 1 wherein the disk-shaped gas generator, whose plane is defined by the gas-discharge openings, makes an angle of no more than 50° of normal to the surface of the opening flap.
5. An airbag module according to Claim 1 wherein a subsection of the deflector covers the gas-discharge openings directed toward the opening flap.
6. An airbag module according to Claim 1 wherein two gas generators are arranged within the modular casing.
7. An airbag module according to Claim 6 wherein both gas generators are arranged side-by-side relative to the instrument panel.
8. An airbag module according to Claim 6 wherein both gas generators are arranged one behind the other relative to the instrument panel.
9. An airbag module according to Claim 1 wherein the disk-shaped generators define a central axis which is substantially parallel with the surface of the opening flap.
10. An airbag module according to Claim 1 wherein the disk-shaped generators define a central axis which deviates from normal to the surface of the opening flap by no more than 50°.